

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 17, 2021

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The Honorable Shawn Benge
Deputy Director, Operations
National Park Service
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland and Deputy Director Benge,


Thank you for your leadership at the Department of the Interior. We write to express concern with the upcoming lethal removal of bison within the North Rim of the Grand Canyon National Park, scheduled to begin next week.

We understand the need to manage the bison population within the Park, as the number of bison have caused concern about their impact on park resources, especially given the projected growth of the herd. However, we are concerned about allowing volunteers to enter into Grand Canyon National Park and kill bison within the National Park boundaries.


There are other non-lethal methods to manage the bison population, such as the use of live capture and Porcine Zona Pellucida (PZP), a fertility control vaccine, that could be used to support the long-term management of the bison within the Grand Canyon National Park. The Department of Interior has successfully used PZP for the management of other species, including deer and wild horses, and even bison at Catalina Island National Park.

We appreciate the need for population control methods in the park but have concerns about the emphasis on lethal removal methods in the Bison Herd Reduction Environmental Assessment. We would encourage you to not move forward with the lethal removal scheduled for next week and revisit alternative methods that can be used to manage the population within the park boundaries. Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress